

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-12 /093 W

-----113439 220718Z /15

R 220631Z FEB 78

FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5242

INFO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

C O N F I D E N T I A L NAIROBI 2698

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP, IR, KE

SUBJECT: KENYA-IRAN BREAK IN RELATIONS

REF: TEHRAN 1760

1. SINCE WEEKEND LOCAL MEDIA HAVE FEATURED IRAN'S BREAK IN RELATIONS WITH KENYA. STORY BASICALLY FOLLOWS THAT REPORTED REFTEL. IN WEEKEND INTERVIEW ACTING FONMIN JAMES OSOGO (FOREIGN MINISTER WAIYAKI IN TRIPOLI FOR OAU MEETING) SAID THAT IRAN HAD NOT OFFICIALLY COMMUNICATED WITH KENYA AND THAT IT WAS THEREFORE IMPOSSIBLE TO SAY HOW KENYA WOULD RESPOND TO IRANIAN MOVE.
2. IRANIAN AMBASSADOR TAVAKOLI AND STAFF ARE PREPARING TO LEAVE BUT HAVE REFUSED TO COMMENT ON PLANS. FLAG STILL FLYING AT AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE AND CHANCERY STILL OPERATING. KENYA HAS NO RESIDENT AMBASSADOR IN TEHRAN WHICH IS COVERED BY KENYAN EMBASSY JIDDA.

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3. EDITORIALS HAVE STIGMATIZED IRANIAN ACTION AS "ARROGANT, MOST UNBECOMING, IMPOLITIC, AND UNDIPLOMATIC" AS MUCH FOR WAY IN WHICH IT DONE THAN ANYTHING ELSE, I.E., BY PRESS CONFERENCE IN TEHRAN.

4. GOK TAKES EXTREMELY SERIOUSLY THREAT BY SOMALIA AND IS HYPERSENSITIVE TO ANY SUPPLYING OF ARMS TO

SOMALIA IN CURRENT OGADEN FIGHTING. PREVAILING VIEW
HERE IS SIMPLY THAT FRIENDS OF KENYA'S ENEMIES ARE
KENYA'S ENEMIES. GOI HAS BORNE BRUNT OF MUCH KENYA
CRITICISM OVER LAST WEEKS BECAUSE OF WHAT KENYA VIEWS
AS SHAH'S STRONG BACKING OF SOMALIA. GOK DOES NOT
ACCEPT THAT IRAN IS ONLY AIDING SOMALIA WITH MEDICAL
SUPPLIES, WITH ONE EDITORIAL COMMENTING "THERE IS
ALWAYS A LIMIT TO AMOUNT OF HYPOCRISY WE CAN TAKE".
RADIO COMMENTARY MORNING FEBRUARY 22 REPEATED LOCAL
PRESS(REPORTED SEPTTEL) WHICH ATTACKED ALL SUPPORT
FOR SOMALIA, INCLUDING IRANIAN, CONCLUDED WITH "KENYA
UNRESERVEDLY CONDEMNS ANY COUNTRY WHICH SHOWS AN
INCLINATION TOWARDS, OR IN ANY WAY SUPPORTS SOMALIA

IN HER CURRENT WAR OF AGGRESSION WITH ETHIOPIA."

5. WHILE AMBASSADOR TAVAKOLI TRIED ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS
DURING PAST FEW WEEKS TO SMOOTH THINGS OVER, HIS
ATTEMPTS SEEMED RATHER TO HAVE EXACERBATED RELATIONS.
IT APPEARS THERE WAS NO GIVE ON EITHER SIDE, WITH
IRANIAN BREAK SIMPLY REFLECTING END OF LINE IN ATTEMPT
TO COME TO ANY UNDERSTANDING ON HORN. KENYANS
DO NOT APPEAR,
HOWEVER, TO HAVE INTENDED TO BREAK RELATIONS THEMSELVES.
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